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Underwater rudder repair in Rotterdam with Hydrex dive support workboat

In December 2015 a diving team from Hydrex, Belgium, mobilised to a 170-metre container vessel with one of its workboats. The team installed a doubler plate over the cavitated area of the rudder during the ship's scheduled maintenance stop in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

An earlier inspection carried out in Algeciras, Spain, had revealed the damage to the rudder. A condition of class was imposed on the vessel and a custom solution was needed. "We proposed a repair plan to the class that would allow the vessel to keep sailing until the next scheduled docking," says Hydrex.

EQUIPPED

Deployment to the vessel was done using a Hydrex workboat loaded with all the needed equipment. The catamarans are fully equipped as dive support stations with hydraulic cranes, winches and a dive control room. They can be used for a wide range of operations in Belgium, the Netherlands and France. This increases flexibility of operations, according to Hydrex.

"After our team arrived on site with the workboat, they performed an underwater inspection of the leading edge of the



Fully equipped Hydrex workboat, ideal for a fast mobilisation

Quick response

rudder, where the damage was situated. The divers then started preparing the affected area for the installation of the doubler plate," says the company.

The plate had been prepared in advance. This was done with the information of the preliminary inspection in Algeciras com-

bined with the drawings of the rudder, provided by the owner.

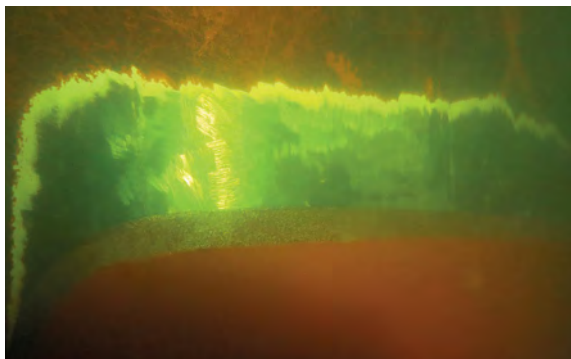
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When the rudder had been prepared Hydrex certified diver/welders fitted the plate and secured it. The team then installed anodes on both sides

of the rudder for further protection. This concluded the repair.

"Our dive support workboat allowed for a very fast mobilisation to the ship's location in Rotterdam," Hydrex says. "The diver/technician team worked in shifts and finished the operation in 24 hours. By doing this the repair fitted in nicely within the schedule of the container vessel."

During the operation a representative of the classification society was present. He gave his approval for the repair. "The owner can now sail his ship until the next scheduled dry-docking without having to worry about further unscheduled delays or repairs to its rudder," says Hydrex.



Left: A Hydrex diver getting ready to enter the water during the night shift. Right: Fitting the doubler plate